

ST. LOUIS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

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FOURTH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Report of the Proceedings.

WEDNESDAY, May 12.

Bishop Paine called the Conference to order; the opening exercises being conducted by A. H. Mitchell. The journal of yesterday was read and authenticated.

Bishop Early now assumed the chair, and announced the order of reports from committees.

NEW ORLEANS STATION.

L. M. Lee, from the Committee on the Itinerary, submitted their report (No. 1) on the resolution from the Louisiana Conference, recommending the striking out of that part of the Discipline, on page 48, which exempts the city of New Orleans from the appointing duties of the Bishop; recommending its adoption.

The report, under the rules, lies over one day.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS.

L. M. Lee, from the same Committee, to whom was referred the subject of the formation and size of Districts and Annual Conferences, reported (No. 2) their recommendation of such a modification of Section 5, Rule 14, on page 52 of the Discipline, as that "no District shall contain more than twelve (instead of fourteen) appointments."

The report lies over one day.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

L. M. Lee, from the same Committee, to whom had been referred a resolution of inquiry into the propriety of changing the Discipline regarding the limitation and restriction of the Episcopal power of appointment, submitted their report (No. 3) embracing a preamble and resolution to the effect that since, by the common law of the Church, the Presiding Elders are regarded as the Advisory Council of the Bishops, and since the Bishops recognize that relation in their late Pastoral Address, it is the judgment of the Committee that there is no necessity for any change of the Discipline (on page 47) with reference to the appointment of ministers.

H. A. C. Walker moved a suspension of the rules and the adoption of this report now.

L. M. Lee stated the purpose of the amendment of the Discipline which the Committee had reported against. In the second answer to the third question, on page 47 of the Discipline, are these words: "To fix the appointments of the preachers for the several Circuits; provided," etc. The amendment was to add, after the word "Circuits," these words: "Stations, Missions and Districts, by and with the advice and consent of the Elders of the Conference."

F. G. Ferguson—I would be perfectly willing for this, in common with all the reports, to lie over one day, and come up in the regular order of business; but, as it is the purpose of Conference that it shall come up now, I suppose we may be indulged with looking briefly into its merits. For twenty-eight years and better, I have given practical evidence of all due loyalty to the powers that be. I glory, sir, in the well-understood machinery of our Church—the Episcopal prerogatives, the self-sacrificing itinerancy, and all that. But the time may come when such a law as that proposed here to be rejected may be necessary to the protection of what we call the inalienable rights of the Church. The reason of the Committee for giving it the go-by seems to be, that, in their opinion, there is nothing in it. Still, the same Committee reports a restriction on the Episcopal authority as to the number of appointments in a District, etc. But they say, the Presiding Elders are the advisory council of the Bishops, by the common law of the Church. If this be true, I grant that there is no use for the proposed law. But then the binding force of the common law might be denied. Can there be any harm in affirming in our Discipline what you have said here by way of a common law reference? I wish the Conference to look at this question without reference to men. The very best men sometimes err; and to restrain ourselves from errors, we should have laws.

L. M. Lee explained the views and objects of the Committee. There were two parts in the resolution referred. The first was to add the words "Stations, Missions and Districts." The term "Circuit," as already in the Discipline, the Committee are of opinion, carries along with it all the idea of "Station, Mission," etc., and consequently they did not think it worth while that they should be added. The second part of the resolution was not simply to constitute the Presiding Elders an advisory council of the Bishops, as they are now recognized by the common law of Methodism, and by the Bishops themselves, in their late Pastoral Address; but it proposed to go beyond that, and to insert a law in the Discipline that would effectually tie up the hands of the Bishops with reference to every appointment, unless it be made with the advice and consent of the Presiding Elders. The Committee did not think proper to bind the Bishops in such a manner, but preferred to leave the appointing power where it has always resided—in the hands of the Bishops; believing that, under the common law of the Church as to this matter, the Bishops do and will advise with the Presiding Elders.

J. B. McFerrin proposed to amend by substituting the words, "common usage," for the words "common law of the Church."

L. M. Lee said he would accept the amendment, provided none of the Committee objected. The Committee unanimously assented.

The reading of the whole report was now called for, and it was read.

The vote being taken, the report was adopted.

BOUNDARIES.

L. Pearce presented Report (No. 6) from the Committee on Boundaries, recommending that the Indian Mission Conference remain undivided, which was adopted.

Also, Report (No. 7) recommending that Mount Washington, in Kentucky, be put down as included in the Louisville Conference, which lies on the table under the rules.

VOTE ON THE ALABAMA RESOLUTIONS.

T. W. Dorman presented Report (No. 1) from the Committee to ascertain the vote of the Annual Conferences on the Alabama and Holston Resolutions, to expunge the general rule on "the buying and selling of men, women, and children, with the intention to enslave them." The vote stands as follows:

CONFERENCE.	CONCURRING.	NOT CONCURRING.
Holston	78	0
Texas	72	0
Florida	116	0
Virginia	59	0
Missouri	1	46
South Carolina	94	0
Memphis	64	12
Mississippi	79	0
Louisville	14	15
Georgia	135	0
Kentucky	18	43
St. Louis	17	42
Tennessee	15	67
Louisiana	49	0
W. Vir.	22	12
Alabama	116	0
East Tennessee	16	0
Arkansas	16	0
Washington	16	0
with an		

Pacific—no action.

Kansas Mission—no action.

Indian Mission—no action.

Whole number of votes concurring, 1160; being 60 votes over the constitutional majority.

The Chair announced that the report would lie on the table one day, under the rule.

T. W. Dorman moved that it be the order of the day for to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

It was announced that E. Hearne, reserve, would take the seat of O. R. Blue till his return.

REVISAL OF DISCIPLINE.

A. L. P. Green presented Report (No. 2) of the Committee on Revisals, containing a great number of items, recommending the adoption of sundry proposed amendments of the Discipline, and the rejection of many others.

N. Scarritt moved its publication in the Daily Advocate.

Several amendments were offered, and J. E. Evans moved to lay the subject on the table.

The motion was agreed to.

HYMN AND TUNE-BOOK.

B. M. Drake presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of the Vicksburg Station, on the subject of publishing a Hymn and Tune-Book similar to the one published at the North, and asked that, without reading, it be referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

It was so referred.

DANVILLE DISTRICT, N. C.

G. E. Carter presented a petition signed by S. K. Turner, similar to those already presented, for the transfer of the Danville District, of the North Carolina Conference to the Virginia Conference; which was received, without reading, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

RETAILING ARDENT SPIRITS.

E. Wadsworth presented a petition from the Quarterly Conference at Selma, Alabama, praying some action on the part of this body to prevent the retailing of ardent spirits by members of the Methodist Church; and asked that it be referred to the Committee on Temperance.

It was so referred.

THE MEMPHIS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

A. R. Winfield presented the report of the Agents of the Memphis, Arkansas, and Wichita, Christian Advocate, giving a statement of assets, liabilities, etc., showing that the paper is handsomely paying its way, out of debt, and well-appointed, and prepared to do its duty to the world; and recommending the continuance of its editorial management in the hands of Dr. Watson.

On motion of A. Hunter, the report was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

M. M. Henkle presented a paper, signed by himself, in behalf of the Educational Institute, requesting the General Conference to instruct its Committee on Education to inquire into the propriety of establishing primary schools, for the elementary instruction of the children of our country; which was read, and, on his motion, referred to the Committee on Education.

W. J. Sasmeth, in this connection, presented the following memorial from the Educational Institute on the subject of common-school education by the Church: Whereas, There is a remarkable adaptation in the successive governmental bodies of the Methodist Church to that number and succession of educational agencies necessary to make up a complete and properly adjusted educational system—the General Conference being precisely adapted to the proper institution and government of the University system, the Annual Conferences to the College and High School system, and the Quarterly Conferences to the Academy or Common School system; and, whereas, steps have already been taken to develop these two higher classes of educational establishments under the control of these two higher ecclesiastical bodies respectively, and it only remains, in order that the system may be made complete, and the subject of education to the control of the Church entire, that the primary or common school education of the country should be subjected to the management of the Quarterly Conferences; therefore,

Resolved, That we memorialize the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, now in session, to take such action as will enable the Quarterly Conferences to assume the management of primary or common school education, adopting the following provisions as necessary to realize this object:

1. That each Quarterly Conference consider itself an educational unit, charged with the duty of seeing to it that the entire community within its territorial limits is provided with the necessary school facilities.

2. That the members of each Quarterly Conference shall themselves, or by committee, constitute agents, whose duty it shall be, in co-operation with or under the general direction of the preachers, to visit the various destitute neighborhoods, and interest the people in the formation of schools; to seek out teachers for them, furnish advice as to details in respect of suitable sites for school houses, and for combination and concert; and in every prudent way, under the guidance of Christian benevolence, point out the way and provide the necessary facilities by which they, in the use of their own resources, may establish for themselves such schools as are suitable to their circumstances and wants.

3. That it shall provide, where the circumstances of the circuit or station will justify it, by regular collections, a fund to be used in defraying the salaries of teachers in those neighborhoods which require assistance.

4. That, to awaken interest and stimulate exertion, the Quarterly Conferences may appoint, annually or semi-annually, visitors to these various schools, especially on occasion of their examinations, to afford countenance, and, if deemed proper, to address the people on the claims of education. They may appoint annual celebrations to be held at eligible places, in which all the schools within their respective jurisdictions, either in mass or by representatives, shall be embraced, at which exercises shall be had suitable to the enlistment of the people in the cause of education.

5. That the preachers in charge be requested to preach upon the subject of education at all their appointments, and use their efforts to enlist the people in this enterprise, and that the presiding elders see that this subject engage the attention of every Quarterly Conference at every one of its regular sessions.

W. J. Sasmeth—We propose in this to institute a common school institution. It has been objected to the theory of education by the Church that it is inadequate to meet all the requirements of an educational system; that while it is competent for the Church to provide for college and university education, it is not competent for it to make adequate provision for primary or common school education. We propose a scheme obviating this objection, and demonstrating the practicability of primary denominational education. We do not expect the plan to be adopted at first in all

the Quarterly Conferences, but we think there are some places where it will be adopted readily, and that the system will recommend and extend itself.

The object is for the Church to take a new step in this matter. That while heretofore it has been employing itself only in the department of higher education, it should now begin the work of providing for the lower department likewise. The continued success of our higher schools demands this. I move that the memorial be referred to the Committee on Education.

It was so referred.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSIONARIES.

T. W. Dorman submitted a resolution that the Committee on Missions inquire into the expediency of providing a rule whereby each Annual Conference, if necessary, may have a Conference missionary, who shall travel through the bounds of the Conference, assisting feeble churches, and aiding the cause of Missions. He said: We need something of the kind ourselves, in our Conference. Our missions to the blacks require it. Under such a rule as this we could accomplish much more than we can now. I propose to refer the resolution to the Committee on Missions.

It was so referred.

SPECIAL RULE OF ORDER.

H. A. C. Walker submitted a resolution that after to-morrow the regular call of the Conference be omitted; and that, after Friday next, no proposition to amend the Discipline shall be entertained.

C. C. Gillespie said the resolution contained two propositions, and called for a division of the question; the first question being on dispensing with a regular call of the Conferences after to-morrow.

A. L. P. Green—Do you mean to shut down, and say that no memorials shall be presented?

H. A. C. Walker—It is only to dispense with the call.

The first part of the resolution was then adopted. The question being on the adoption of the second part—

H. H. Montgomery made an ineffectual motion to lay the latter part of the original resolution on the table.

The latter division of the resolution was adopted.

BOOK AGENTS.

F. E. Pitts submitted the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Books and Periodicals be instructed to consider and report on the policy of employing experienced business men to take charge of our publishing interests from amongst the laymen.

He said: I desire this resolution to be sent to the Committee, and to state that no man has a higher appreciation of the ability of our present worthy Agents than I have. I have no unkind reflection, none but what is honorable and approving, in reference to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Owen; but I wish the question of the policy of employing Agents from amongst laymen to be fully canvassed.

The resolution was adopted and referred accordingly.

SECURITIES OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

E. C. Slater moved the Conference to take up the consideration of Report (No. 3) from the Committee on Books and Periodicals, with reference to the securities of the Publishing House.

The motion was agreed to, and the report was read again by the Secretary.

E. C. Slater—I desire to submit a resolution bearing upon this subject, which is designed to supply a deficiency in the report. The report should have contained a feasible plan for the better security of this property. I submit the following:

Resolved, In view of the unprotected condition of a portion of the Publishing House buildings, thereby endangering the whole, that the Book Agents and Committee be empowered and required to invest, as soon as practicable, a sum not exceeding \$50,000, in such improvements as may be necessary for the security of the Publishing House buildings.

This resolution was signed also by M. J. Blackwell.

C. K. Marshall thought it would not be amiss to give some direction to the manner of proceeding in this matter, for many things might be done involving great expense. Four years ago at Columbus, when the proposition was pending to locate the Publishing House here, he remembered that, amongst other things, it was proposed to supply water here gratuitously, so that by turning a single faucet a thousand streams of water could be turned on these premises, which would be an effectual protection from fire. If that pledge had been redeemed, he would naturally suppose that a policy of insurance could be obtained on very reasonable terms. Since we had been pledged \$70,000 and the free use of water, it would be ungenerous in us to allow this occasion to pass over without a suitable vote of thanks. But, in fact, when he first looked at that Southern Publishing House and Book Concern, it reminded him of a forsaken Quaker meeting house that had left home on a Western expedition in pursuit of manifest destiny, and had been arrested in Nashville on a telegraphic writ. He should never have taken that exterior for the great Southern Publishing House. But still, he would not be numbered amongst those despising the day of small things; therefore he hoped the resolution would pass, after being so amended as to give some direction as to the manner in which this money should be expended. A tin roof and cast-iron doors would perhaps be a sufficient improvement for the security desired.

J. B. McFerrin, after a pleasant response, in kind, to C. K. Marshall's notice of the appearance of the Publishing House, etc., said: It is true, the House makes a bad show in front; but the rear buildings would compare favorably with those of any Publishing House in the United States. Good judges, and business men in this line, have been from New York, Boston, New Orleans, Vicksburg, and elsewhere; and, after passing through this establishment, they have pronounced it altogether superior in its appointments to any Publishing House in the United States. From its position with reference to other buildings, it is perhaps more free from exposure to fire than it could be in any other location. All the boiler-fires are outside of the main building. All the rear buildings are new, and covered with tin. The greatest mistake in their construction was that they did not put iron frames into the windows next the hotel. Still I think myself that it is in danger of fire, and that this ought to be remedied. We have frequently debated the question of pulling down and rebuilding certain portions; but the General Conference restricted us to \$75,000 for grounds and buildings, and we lacked the means. At the proper time, sir, I shall have a good deal to say to the Conference about their interests in Nashville, about outside influences, expenditures, and liabilities that have hindered and hampered us. With reference to the pledges for the location of the Publishing House in Nashville, alleged to have been given at the last General Conference, at Columbus, I can say but little. I was not

there, and know little about it. I made no speech and cast no vote in Conference for Nashville, though I should most certainly have done both if I had been there. I heard of no pledge. I did hear a memorial asking for the location here. That memorial proposed no amount of money by way of donation—not a single dollar. But it did say, that if Conference should see proper to locate the Publishing House in Nashville, the signers would do clever things; but no amount of money was specified. There was in the memorial an offer on the part of the corporate authorities of the city of Nashville to free the institution from city or corporation tax. They have redeemed that pledge, and it deserves to be regarded as a very handsome compliment to the Church; for in these times of extravagant expenditures for public works of improvement, our taxes are enormous. There was an impression also that water was to be furnished the institution free of charge, but the Common Council did not so understand it. Still, they exempted the establishment from the water-tax one year—since that they have it to pay. In regard to the Nashville contribution, it is proper, perhaps, to say further, that when the last General Conference adjourned and the location was made, a number of citizens of Nashville, not members of the Church, called a public meeting and got up a subscription as a kind of thank offering for what the Conference had done. At that meeting the subject was set forth by several speakers, and a contribution of something over \$20,000 was put upon paper, subject to the call of the Agents. A large proportion of this has been paid. A part of it was subscribed on the condition that the Agents should build a handsome front. This is the whole matter, I believe. With regard to the report, the Committee merely presented the facts, and in so doing considered that they fulfilled their whole duty to the Conference.

C. K. Marshall—Is there enough of the unpaid subscription still collectable to do what is contemplated in the resolution—rendering the buildings fire-proof? Is there enough to put up the front?

J. B. McFerrin—I do not think there is sufficient to put up the front. The subscription has been very well paid. The amount subscribed conditionally is reserved, and will not be paid unless we build a new front, and we have not now enough to do that.

The Chair (to E. C. Slater)—How do you propose to apply the resolution?

E. C. Slater—As an amendment to the report of the Committee.

A. L. P. Green, responding to G. W. D. Harris, said: There was no specific pledge made at the General Conference by any delegate from Tennessee, but a pledge was embraced in a communication sent to the Conference by the people of Nashville. It ran thus: "We will do as much for the Book Concern, if located in Nashville, as any city will do for any other location." I never named a specific sum, nor heard any other Tennessee name one. I think, also, that we have done as much as any other city would have done; and if you will put me to the proof, I will show it.

G. W. D. Harris—I did not say Dr. Green pledged \$75,000; but I said Memphis would, and Dr. Green said Nashville would do as much.

W. A. Smith, amongst other things, said: I was not satisfied with the manner of debating this question four years ago, and I am not now. We want facts. Nothing short of facts will satisfy the Conference in its efforts to push forward this great work. Amusing speeches for the Book Concern, or against the Book Concern, may do very well for the moment; but it is altogether too grave a subject to be passed off in this way. I look upon it as the duty of the Committee to satisfy this Conference that the location of this Book Concern was wisely made; that it promises to be successful to such a degree as to justify every part of the Southern Church in rallying around it. The ground was taken four years ago, and the same ground is occupied now, that no place will do for a Publishing House of this kind but a great commercial centre; and it was urged that Nashville was such a centre. Let them now look to the facts. Many are of opinion that Nashville is not a great commercial centre, and never can be. I affirm nothing now myself; but I want the Committee to investigate the subject, and furnish such facts as may satisfy us, so that we may go out and unite the Church in this great work; and they must give me that satisfaction before I can vote away one dollar of the public money here. If it be true that Nashville is not a great commercial centre, it is no place for this Book Concern. How are exchanges here? Are they in favor of or against Nashville? That is one great question. What are your facilities here for sending out books? I am told that the port of shipping for Nashville is a village twelve miles below the mouth of the Cumberland river; that that village (Paducah) is the shipping-point in point of fact for Nashville by water, and that Memphis is her shipping-point by railroad. Is this so? I want information on this point; and until I can have it I am at sea on this question. Then for the freights: I am told that it costs three and a half per cent. to get books to Charleston, and from six to seven and a half per cent. to get books to any part of Virginia. Again, is it true that you have no facilities for manufacturing paper here? that you have to go to New York for the paper you employ in the publication of your books? Again, is it true that you cannot get the stereotyping and the daily work done here on as favorable terms as in other cities? I do not affirm these things, but ask if they are true. These questions must be met, sir, and favorably met, before this location can be confirmed, and prosper as it ought to prosper.

J. B. McFerrin said the Committee had not yet submitted their report. There were two points to the question: 1st. Whether we should have a Publishing House or not; and, 2d. If so, where it should be located.

D. R. M'Anally moved that the matter lie on the table for the present.

C. K. Marshall explained. He did not wish the brethren to infer from his remarks that he entertained any idea of removing the Publishing House from Nashville. He only wanted to relieve the minds of those who desired information on the points referred to.

A. L. P. Green—At the General Conference four years ago, I was of the impression that the water was embraced in the grant of privilege. I was mistaken. I wish to say a word concerning the advantages gained by the present location of the concern. The house we occupy on the bluff was built for a different purpose—a sugar refinery, and intended to be filled with hogsheads of sugar. Therefore it was constructed in a very strong and substantial manner. The original cost was not less than \$68,000; but it cost us no more than could have been got for the ground alone. The buildings in any Southern city would cost you \$100,000; and you got that for nothing; we simply paid the cost of the ground; and the ground is now worth a hundred per cent. more than when we purchased it. Keep that in mind. The speaker proceeded to give some ac-

count of the expenditures for improvements, etc., for which we have not room.

J. B. McFerrin was willing to see the report laid on the table for the present. We always intended to report to this body, at the proper time, the condition and prospects of the establishment. If the Conference wished to go into the investigation of all the points suggested by Dr. Smith, the Committee were ready for it.

F. A. Owen did not intend to perpetrate a speech; only rose to vindicate himself and colleague from any supposed delinquency in the protection of your interest. When we commenced, we were prepared to effect an insurance at some \$25,000 or \$30,000. At the end of the term the office declined to take any further risk on the Publishing House. We could not get the property insured. We have not wilfully neglected that interest; we have done the best we could. We have kept a faithful watchman in the manufacturing part of the house; a cautious and vigilant young man lodges in the front part. We are perfectly willing you should make any inquiries; only give us time to deliberate as to give you a proper answer. One important point should be borne in mind: locate where you will, the location will materially affect us; but the influence of the location is nothing at all in comparison with the want of sympathy, interest and patronage.

Bishop Paine—The reports of committees ought always to conclude with resolutions. If the report simply conveys information, it ought still to conclude with a resolution to discharge the committee. If there is no resolution, there is no need of a vote for adoption, unless the report be objected to. The report before you has no resolution appended to it; therefore no motion to adopt it is necessary. There is a resolution before you, however, to do something in regard to it. If you see proper, you can recommit with instructions.

Levi Pearce moved that the report be referred back to the Committee, together with the proposed amendments; which was carried.

J. H. Linn offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Books and Periodicals be and they hereby are instructed to inquire into the facilities for transportation, and all other things connected with the publication and sale of our books.

Bishop Andrew did not think this a proper subject for investigation now. It would destroy public confidence. But he would suggest an important item or two to the Conference. The Bishops had much to do in making a distribution of the Episcopal work for the next four years. It was important that they should know, at the earliest convenient time, whether the Conference were going to give them any aid, and how much; also, the number and the boundaries of the Conferences should be settled, and the great questions pending in regard to missions; and there were certain matters which it would be necessary to settle as soon as possible, for the peace and comfort of brethren—certain elections to be made, which he hoped would be attended to at an early day.

E. M. Marvin was glad to hear the remarks of the Bishop. Four years ago he voted for another locality for the Publishing House. The Agents had labored under great embarrassment. Perhaps we had expected too much—found fault unjustly. If the publishing interests were to be disturbed every four years, as the Bishop had said, we should lose public confidence. The speaker disavowed any dissatisfaction with the management of affairs at Nashville. He believed in his heart that the Agents had done their best in the circumstances.

J. H. Linn made a similar disclaimer. Still, he said, there had been dissatisfaction, and that very general. The Committee ought to make a full showing to the Conference. This was all he wanted. Then confidence would be inspired, and we should rally to the support of the Publishing House.

Levi Pearce moved to amend the resolution by striking out all that relating to location; which was accepted by the mover; and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

H. H. Montgomery proposed two resolutions calling for alterations in the Discipline; which were referred to the Committee on Revisals.

H. N. McTear offered the following preamble and resolution, which, at the wish of the mover, were laid on the table for the present, for consideration of the General Conference:

WHEREAS, The distribution of the General Superintendents throughout the territory of the Church is desirable; and

WHEREAS, It is important to the character and efficiency of the Episcopal office that it be filled by men chosen for their qualifications, without respect to their localities; therefore,

Resolved, That the Bishop or Bishops be hereafter chosen, shall be required to fix their domicile at such place or places as the General Conference may direct.

W. W. Bennett, W. Hicks and J. Atkins offered a resolution proposing to strike out "and want nothing," and substitute "and attend faithfully to all their duties," in section 8, page 55, of Discipline; which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

D. S. Doggett and G. W. Langhorne offered the following resolution, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Resolved, That the last clause of paragraph 6, section 6, chapter 2, of our Discipline, be either stricken out or rendered more definite in its signification.

Appointments were made, and Conference adjourned with the benediction from the Chair.

THURSDAY, May 13.

A prayer-meeting was held in the Conference room, commencing at eight o'clock, A. M.

At half-past eight, Bishop Early took the chair, and called on W. G. Caples to conduct the devotions of the morning.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Samuel Watson, being called home by family affliction, requested permission of absence, and the appointment of F. A. Owen in his place on the Committee on Books and Periodicals; both of which were agreed to by the Conference.

Bishop Kavanaugh now took the chair, and called for reports from standing committees.

THE GERMAN APOLOGIST.

J. Boring presented report (No. 7) of the Committee on Missions, recommending the *German Apologist* as an efficient auxiliary to the missionary work among the Germans, and advising the following appropriation from the Mission Fund for its support for the four years to come:

From May, 1858, to May, 1859	\$1,500
" 1859, " 1860	1,200
" 1860, " 1861	1,000
" 1861, " 1862	800

The amount to be paid in quarterly instalments.

The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF BISHOPS.

A resolution signed A. H. Mitchell and C. D. Oliver, was read, setting forth the importance of

an early election of Bishops, in order to expedite the business of the Conference, and requesting the Committee on the Episcopacy to report on that subject as soon as possible.

C. D. Oliver was attached to the Committee on Sabbath-schools, in place of J. J. Hutchinson.

COMMITTEE ON REVISALS.

The following, signed E. C. Slater, G. Jones and J. Hamilton, was presented:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Conference that the Committee on Revisals, in their capacity as such, should be restricted to the consideration of such suggestions and memorials as may be referred to them by the Conference.

It